

REMARKS

Reexamination of the application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1-50 are pending. Claims 1, 12, 14, 22, 30, 35-36, 40-42, 44 and 46 have been amended. Support for the amendments is found in the specification, the drawings and in the claims as originally filed. Applicants submit that the amendments do not add new matter.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone interview on April 7, 9 and 10. The discussions pertaining to the basis for rejection in the Final Office Action mailed January 10, 2003 and in the Advisory Action mailed March 24, 2003 as to claim 46. Specifically, our discussions related to the lack of disclosure of an electronic receipt in the prior art cited under 35 USC §102 and §103.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 35, 36, 42, and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and second paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 35, 36, 42 and 44, as amended, satisfy the requirements of 35 USC §112 first and second paragraph and respectfully request the rejection of the claims be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,319,542 of King et al. ("King") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,758,327 of Gardner ("Gardner") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,315,504 of Lemble ("Lemble").

Claim 1, as amended, includes the limitation of “an electronic receipt generating means for generating an electronic receipt to acknowledge receipt of the operating resource.” As discussed in the telephone interview, the King, Gardner and Lemble references, individually, or in combination, only teach specific aspects of an electronic requisition process, such as preparing a requisition form of items to order and sending a purchase order to a supplier (See King col. 1 lines 12-20, col. 5 line 30 – col. 6 line 29). However, these references do not teach that after the ordered item is received, the system may generate “an electronic receipt” to acknowledge receipt of the item, as claimed. Thus providing the user a way to acknowledge receipt of the item, indicate acceptance of the item, or indicate rejection of the item. Independent claims 40 and 46 include similar limitations and also are not taught in the combination of references at least for the reasons stated above.

In addition, the combination of references do not teach the limitation of “querying a user about a purchasing decision via a user interface, wherein the user is to reply to the query by selecting one or more requisition information selections from a user interface,” as claimed in claim 35. The King reference discloses that a user may view a public or private catalog to search for an item of interest (see King col. 5 line 30 – col. 6 line 29). However, this is not the same as, for example, the system providing a user with a number of questions to guide them through the process of making a purchase, such as, “What do you want to buy today?” and then being presented with a number of answers to choose from. In this example, the system continues to ask questions and gather other data about payment, billing, shipping and the like. Throughout the process, the emphasis is on browsing and selecting, rather than typing, thus channeling the user toward standard answers for generating error-free requisitions.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that as claims 1, 35, 40 and 46, as amended, are not rendered obvious by King, Gardner, or Lemble, and that the combination cannot be interpreted to disclose the claimed elements. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection to these claims be withdrawn. Claims 2-34, 36-39, 41-45 and 47-50 are dependent, directly or indirectly, on at least one of the claims 1, 35, 40, or 46. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the rejections to these dependent claims be withdrawn, as least for the reasons stated above.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, and submit that the rejections have been overcome by the remarks, and that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

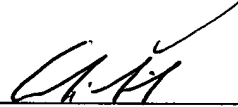
The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 408-720-8300 if there remains any issue with allowance of this case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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